CALIFORNIA OF ARTMENT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN FIRE CHIEF FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

(323) 881-2401

March 17, 2004

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

DEER LAKE PROJECT

This memorandum is to address concerns that have recently arisen regarding fire protection for the Deer Lake Ranch project that will be before your Board on March 23, 2004.

This development is in the unincorporated Chatsworth area, just north of the City of Los Angeles boundary. The District's Fire Station 75 is the jurisdictional fire station for this project. However, Station 75 is located approximately 5 miles from the project. Because of the project's proximity to the City, the City (through the Fire District's automatic aid agreement with the City) will provide a first response for both fire and emergency medical incidents. The City station is located approximately 2½ miles from the project area. Further, due to the project's distance from the jurisdictional station, the developer has been conditioned to provide a helispot, from which emergency medical transport can be achieved, as well as water access for wildland firefighting.

Station 75's jurisdiction is largely rural in nature, with only 117 incidents occurring in its jurisdiction in 2003 – in comparison, the average number of incidents per station is 1,800. In addition, a 3-person fire station costs approximately \$1.8 million annually to operate, yet the estimated property tax revenue generated in Fire Station 75's jurisdiction is \$1 million. Until the incident load increases sufficiently to warrant an additional, closer fire station to the Deer Lake Project, fire protection and emergency medical services will be addressed through automatic aid with L.A. City and the use of the helispot.

Please contact me if any additional information is required.

PMF:da

c: David E. Janssen Louisa Ollague Randi Tahara Joseph Charney Matt Knabe Jennifer Plaisted

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF: